CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for use in a treatment modality including an enlargement procedure to be performed within a patient, said apparatus including a catheter for being directed through internal passageways in the patient, said catheter having proximal and distal ends, and proximal and distal portions adjacent to said proximal and distal ends respectively, and a first and at least second generally parallel lumens, said lumens extending between said proximal and distal portions, and a cutting wire for performing the enlargement procedure extending through said second lumen for operating at said distal portion in response to manipulations at said proximal end, said cutting wire having a distal end attached to said catheter at the distal end of said second lumen, a portion thereof external to said catheter along a length coextensive with a portion of said distal portion of said catheter and a handle for operating said cutting wire from a point proximal of said catheter, the improvement comprising:

a rotatable coupling attaching said handle to said catheter allowing said handle to rotate relative to said proximal end of said catheter while engaging and rotating a proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said distal portion of said catheter rotates as a result of said rotation of said handle.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a rotation lock which inhibits further rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a rotation indicator configured to indicate an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said rotation indicator comprises a visual indicator of said amount of rotation.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said visual indicator comprises an index marking and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said amount of rotation.

6. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said rotation indicator comprises a device providing an audible indication in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

7. A method of cutting tissue in a body passage comprising selecting a catheter having a first lumen configured for receiving a wire guide, a second lumen configured for receiving an electrosurgical cutting wire, positioning said catheter in said passage at a desired position using an endoscope, actuating the electrosurgical cutting wire in the second lumen, the improvement comprising:

orientating said electrosurgical cutting wire by rotating a handle relative to a proximal end of said catheter.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said cutting wire is affixed to said handle, wherein said step of rotating said handle causes a rotation of a proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said cutting wire is caused to rotate within said second lumen.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein a distal end of said cutting wire is caused to rotate by a twisting of a portion of said cutting wire intermediate said proximal and said distal portions of said cutting wire.

10. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

inhibiting further rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter by engaging a rotation lock.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

indicating an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter through the use of a rotation indicator.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of indicating an amount of rotation includes a visual indication of said amount of rotation.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said visual indication includes an index marking and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said amount of rotation.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of indicating an amount of rotation includes an audible indicator provided by a device in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

15. A catheter handle comprising:

a rotatable coupling configured to allow free rotation of a proximal end of a catheter; and

a clamping member configured to engage a proximal end of a device extending through a lumen formed in said catheter whereby rotation of said handle causes rotation of a proximal end of said device in said lumen.

16. The catheter handle of claim 15, wherein said device comprises a cutting wire extending from said proximal end of said catheter to and connecting to a distal end of said catheter.

17. The catheter handle of claim 15, further comprising:

a rotation lock engageable to inhibit a rotation of said handle with respect to said proximal end of said catheter.

18. The catheter handle of claim 15, further comprising:

a rotation indicator configured to indicate an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

19. The catheter handle of claim 18, wherein said rotation indicator comprises a visual indicator of said amount of rotation.

20. The catheter handle of claim 19, wherein said visual indicator comprises an index marking and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said amount of rotation.

21. The catheter handle of claim 15, wherein said rotation indicator comprises a device providing an audible indication in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.